

USS Arizona Memorial

Allen Bodenlos

SGT, United States Army (1940 - 1947)



Al Bodenlos was born in Cleveland, Ohio on August 13, 1920. He enlisted in the United States Army on July 9, 1940. He was eventually assigned to the 13th Combat Engineers, then to the 804th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i.

On December 6, 1941, Al was sent to Honolulu to buy instruments for the 804th New Drum and Bugle Corps. Al was the Bugle Master for the 15 buglers in the battalion. Also, part of his assignment was to attend a special concert that night at Army-Navy YMCA. All the U.S. battleships stationed in the harbor had bands, and some were involved in the competition. Al recalled that the place was packed and full of energy, but he planned for a leisurely morning the next day.

Early in the morning on December 7th at the Army-Navy YMCA, loudspeakers ordered all military personnel to report to their organizations immediately. Al dutifully caught the Schofield Shuttle. When the bus neared the shores of Pearl Harbor, all hell was breaking loose. M.P.'s stopped and stormed the shuttle and ordered everyone to get off and to take cover immediately. Al then learned that the harbor was under attack and the Japanese pilots were shooting anything moving. Al recalls that the planes were flying so low that you could see the faces of the pilots. They shot at but missed the shuttle by inches, bullets whizzed all around and everyone dove for safety into a nearby ditch. Al was scared and witnessed the horror of the tragedy developing in the harbor. He vividly remembers the USS *Arizona* blowing up and the USS *Oklahoma* rolling over as he helplessly watched other ships sink to the harbor floor.



Bugle Master, SGT Al Bodenlos.
A real boogie-woogie bugle boy of Company B, 13th Combat Engineers, Fort Ord, California.

The attack appeared to end, so everyone re-boarded the shuttle and proceeded to Schofield Barracks. The second wave started when Al arrived at his unit. The 804th was already deployed at all five military airfields. Al was also the Company courier, and he delivered messages from the command post by motorcycle to the airfields for two full days with no rest. He spent the rest of the war island hopping, building and repairing airfields captured from the Japanese. His faith pulled him through.

Following the war, Al spent two more years in the Army on duty in Korea. In 1947, Al was honorably discharged from the Army and returned to Ohio. He tried to wipe the war out of his mind, as many veterans were trying to do. He eventually moved to California where he worked for 34 years for a highway construction firm. It was not until his retirement in 1982 that Al discovered the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. The Association has helped Al bring everything back to light again. He enjoys speaking to school children about the Pearl Harbor attack and his war experiences. He also began volunteering at the Veterans Administration Hospital in San Diego, and has now entered his twentieth year there. Every year, Al travels to Hawaii for one reason, to place flowers at the USS *Arizona* and USS *Utah* Memorials. Al sadly admits that he had made friends with members of the USS *Arizona* band. They became friends because of their musical backgrounds, and he never saw them again. They're still on the USS *Arizona* and still in his heart. Al became a "part time" Pearl Harbor Survivor volunteer with the National Park Service in 2005.

USS Arizona Memorial

Sterling R. Cale

SGM, U. S. Army (Retired)

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Sterling Cale was born on November 29, 1921 in Macomb, Illinois. He enlisted for Lighter-Than-Air Training (Dirigibles) at Lakehurst, New Jersey. When the German blimp, *von Hindenburg*, exploded and burned, the Navy Department cancelled the program and Sterling graduated as a

hospital pharmacist's mate (Corpsman) from the school in San Diego, California.



He was assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital at "C" Landing, Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawai'i. PhM2c Cale was transferred to the shipyard dispensary in July of 1941. Completing night duty on the morning of December 7, 1941, he arrived at the receiving station around 7:00 AM, signed out with the master-at-arms and went outside. In less than hour, he noticed planes diving on the ships at Battleship Row and decided it was another mock attack, when suddenly a plane turned off to the right and he saw the "Rising Sun" on the wing tips and fuselage. He gasped as he said, "My God, those are Japanese planes, and we are being attacked." Later, PhM2c Cale also was in charge of the burial party removing bodies from the USS *Arizona*.

WWII was spent with the 1st Marine Division at Guadalcanal. He transferred to the U.S. Army in 1948 and saw duty with the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Korea from 1950-1951. As an Army Sergeant Major and State Department Civilian, he saw duty in Vietnam from 1955-1974 with intermediate assignments to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California.

A young sailor and Navy bugler at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Company 42-40; 1940.



Mr. Cale graduated with an MBA from Chaminade University in 1975. He retired with 57 years of Government service in March 2005. He started volunteering at the USS *Arizona* Memorial shortly after his retirement.

Sterling sharing his December 7, 1941 experiences with Moanalua High School students, 2005.

USS Arizona Memorial

William S. (Bill) Cope

United States Army Air Corps B-17 Pilot (December 7, 1941)
Retired United States Air Force Officer

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Bill Cope, a Pearl Harbor Survivor, was a newly married B-17 Bomber pilot on December 7, 1941. He joined the United States Army Air Corps on January 12, 1939. After graduating from flying school in June of 1941, he was assigned to Hickam Field, Hawai'i.



Bill met his late wife, Ruth while she was vacationing with her college sorority sisters on O'ahu. It was love at first sight and they were married at the Hickam Officers' Club just ten days before the Japanese attacked the island.

The couple had just returned from their honeymoon when Bill was notified that he was assigned to be the Officer of the Guard on December 6, 1941. His duty was to line up all of the B-17's, supposedly to avoid sabotage, but instead this enabled the Japanese to get them in one quick attack.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, the young couple were settling in to their new quarters and adjusting to the joys of married life. The joy was short lived. They soon noticed smoke and heard explosions coming from the neighboring Navy Base at Pearl Harbor. Shortly thereafter, Japanese Zeros flew over their home toward the flight line at Hickam Field. The Japanese attackers destroyed all of the B-17's on the flight line during the attack. With no B-17's, Bill was later transferred to Bellows Field on the eastside of O'ahu and flew B-18's until replacement B-17's arrived.

In June of 1942, Bill participated in the Battle of Midway and in August of that year, he left for Guadalcanal as a member of the 11th Bombardment Group. Bill stayed in the South Pacific until 1943 and

later received the Distinguished Flying Cross for 45 Combat Missions.

While Bill was flying missions, Ruth stayed on O'ahu and joined the Women's Air Raid Defense (WARDS). This organization was formed by the Army to relieve duty men from radar work on Oahu. She was stationed at Fort Shafter. Bill and Ruth were reunited on the Mainland in 1943.

Following World War II, the Army Air Corps separated from the Army and became the United States Air Force in 1947. Bill continued his career in the Air Force. The couple had two daughters. Bill participated in the Berlin Air Lift in the late 1940's. Afterwards, he was a United States Air Force instructor at the Royal Air Force School of Land Air Warfare, a position he held for three years.

Following Bill's retirement from the Air Force, the family settled in Fresno, California. In 2000, Bill and Ruth moved to Hawaii. In March of 2000, the couple began volunteering at the USS Arizona Memorial. Bill and Ruth enjoyed their conversations with visitors from all over the world, including President and Mrs. George W. Bush in 2003.

On May 13, 2005, Ruth passed away. Bill returned to California to be closer to his two daughters, his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He periodically returns to Hawai'i and returns to the USS Arizona Memorial to volunteer his time and share his stories about the attack at Pearl Harbor to a new generation of visitors.



USS Arizona Memorial

Raymond Emory

Chief Boatswain's Mate, United States Navy (1940 — 1946)

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Ray Emory (above) likes to stay busy. On May 11, 2004, the ashes of Pearl Harbor Survivor, Paul Urdzik were scattered into Pearl Harbor. Ray (right) presents a flag and certificate to Mr. Urdzik's widow on the dock of the USS Arizona Memorial.



Ray Emory was born in Peoria, Illinois on May 18, 1921. He graduated from Peoria High School in 1938 and enlisted in the United States Navy in August of 1940. He attended basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center graduating in October of 1940 as a Seaman Recruit.

After boot camp, Ray served on the following ships: USS *Savannah* (Light Cruiser—CL-42), USS *Honolulu* (CL-48), USS *Feland* (Attack Transport Ship—APA-11), and the USS *Chilton* (APA-38). He was involved in the following engagements: Pearl Harbor Attack,

Aleutians, Solomon Islands, Battle of Tassafaronga, and the consolidation of the Southern Solomons. He served in seven invasions: Tarawa, Kwajalein, Saipan, Guam, Leyte Gulf, Lingayen Gulf, Iwo Jima, and even participated in an Atom Bomb test in Bikini in 1946.

Although Ray served only six years in the Navy, he made significant contributions during World War II. On Sunday, December 7, 1941, Ray was a Seaman First Class stationed onboard the USS *Honolulu*, moored in Pearl Harbor's Southeast Loch. When the explosions started, without orders he rushed topside and began firing at the Japanese aircraft and torpedoes using a .50-Caliber machine gun while receiving hostile fire during the Pearl Harbor attack. Prior to his fourth year of naval service, Ray was offered an appointment to Ensign, but declined because he did not want to transfer from his ship. Instead he remained onboard and was meritoriously advanced to Chief Boatswain's Mate-Permanent Appointment after receiving a high score on the Chief's Exam.

Deciding to obtain a college degree, Ray was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1946. He then attended Bradley University and the University of Washington, where he received his Architect License and became involved in the construction industry in the Pacific Northwest area until 1985. He then moved to Honolulu, Hawaii where he still resides with his wife Jinny.

After moving to Honolulu, Ray has been very active in working towards the identification of all missing WWII Sailors, soldiers and Marines who have been interred and labeled as "Unknown". The first Pearl Harbor casualty who was positively identified was Thomas Hembree from the seaplane tender, USS *Curtis* (AV-4). With the help of

Mr. Emory, Mr. Hembree's remains were reburied in Punchbowl on March 5, 2002. Since then Ray has worked tirelessly and had been able to identify several other "Unknowns" from the Pearl Harbor attack.

His personal decorations include the American Defense Medal, American Area Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal (eleven awards), Philippine Liberation Medal (two awards), WWII Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Navy Unit Commendation ribbon, and the Philippine Medal awarded by the Philippine Government. Ray is the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association Chief Historian and the current President Emeritus of the National Chief Petty Officers Association.



Photo of Ray taken at "The Pike", Long Beach, California in 1940.



Ray has worked tenaciously to positively identify some of the men killed during the Pearl Harbor attack. These men are buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific with tombstones that carry only the epitaph, "Unknown".

USS Arizona Memorial

Richard Fiske

Master Sergeant, United States Air Force (Retired)

March 22, 1922 — April 2, 2004

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Richard Fiske was born in Boston, Massachusetts on March 26, 1922. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in February of 1940. Following Field Music School, he was assigned to the USS *West Virginia* (BB-48) as a Marine Private bugler on July 6, 1940.

At 7:55 a.m. on December 7, 1941, Richard was on the quarterdeck when the attack began. He witnessed the Japanese planes coming in and launching their torpedoes towards his ship. There were nine torpedoes and two bombs that would eventually destroy the battleship. After the first torpedo hits, Richard rushed to his battle station which was on the navigation bridge. A few minutes later, he witnessed the captain's death.

At about 9:30 a.m., the crew was ordered to abandon the sinking ship. Richard swam to nearby Ford Island.

Richard remained assigned to the USS *West Virginia* until January of 1944 when he was promoted to Field Musician Sergeant and was transferred to the 5th Marine Division. He participated in the landing and the bloody battle for the Japanese stronghold on Iwo Jima in 1945.

After the war, Richard enlisted in the newly established United States Air Force in 1948. He served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars as a Crew Chief.

He retired from the Air Force in 1969 with the rank of Master Sergeant.

Richard began volunteering at the USS *Arizona* Memorial in 1982. Often referred to one of the park's many goodwill ambassadors, he had a special duty that he performed. Richard was given the honor of dedicating two roses once a month at the USS *Arizona* Memorial on behalf of Mr. Zenji Abe, a Japanese pilot who participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor. After placing the flowers in front of the names of the casualties from the USS *Arizona*, he played "Taps" on his bugle. The flowers were paid for by Mr. Abe and Richard continued to do this tribute for several years.

His narrations to visitors at the USS *Arizona* Memorial emphasized that the war had ended a long time ago and that good relations now existed between the United States and Japan. The Japanese pilots who attacked Oahu were following their orders and he no longer felt bitterness from their actions. His pursuits drew accolades here and abroad. In 1996, he received the Order of the Rising Sun with Silver Rays from the Japanese emperor. In January of 2004, he was honored by U.S. Secretary Gale Norton and Hawaii Governor, Linda Lingle for contributing more than 3,000 hours of time to the USS *Arizona* Memorial. Richard Fiske passed way on April 2, 2004 at the age of 82.



Richard "Dick" Fiske. Pearl Harbor Survivor volunteer in 2001 (top); young Marine in 1940 (bottom left); hardened fighting man in 1944 (bottom right).

USS Arizona Memorial

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



John R. Haverty

Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate, U. S. Navy

John Haverty was born Smithfield, Virginia in 1917. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1935. His first ship assignment was the cruiser USS *San Francisco* (CA-38). He was then transferred to another cruiser the USS *Louisville* (CA-28) in 1940.

While serving on board the USS *San Francisco* in 1939, John injured his left arm in an accident. The injury never did

heal properly, and John checked in at the

United States Naval Hospital at Pearl Harbor in October of 1941. In a few days, his arm was operated on with success.

When the Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, John was still a patient recovering from his surgery at the Naval Hospital. He and the rest of the patients and staff witnessed the ensuing attack. Soon, casualties began to pour into the hospital, which was located nearby at Hospital Point. Some patients grabbed their clothes and went to their duty stations. Since his operation required a bone graft of his right leg to his left arm, John was confined to a wheelchair and unable to walk. There was nothing he could do but watch the events unfold before his eyes. He even witnesses the beaching of the USS *Nevada* (BB-38) near the hospital.

A few weeks following the attack, John was evacuated to the San Diego Naval Hospital for the remainder of his rehabilitation. He was finally discharged from the hospital at the end of March 1942.

John was a Aviation Machinist's Mate. He was soon attached to a Composite Fighter Squadron stationed at naval bases in Washington State and Alaska. For the remainder of the war, John would see no further combat action. It was fine for him, he had seen enough on that first day of the war.

John continued in the Navy after the war. In late 1948 through the middle of 1949, he participated in ground crew operations for the Berlin Airlift Campaign. In addition to the United States Air Force, two American naval squadrons, including John's was sent to Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany.

In 1957, John retired after serving nearly twenty-two years in the Navy. John started volunteering for the National Park Service at the USS *Arizona* Memorial in 1983. A widower, John remarried in 2002, and brought his lovely bride, Sarah Louise Bowers Haverty to the USS *Arizona* Memorial for a visit. Louise joined the USS *Arizona* Memorial volunteer family shortly thereafter. The National Park Service is pleased to have John and Louise Haverty volunteer here.



John Haverty then and now. John today (above) and John when he was a sailor assigned to the USS *Louisville* in 1941.



Frankfort, Germany, March 1949.

USS Arizona Memorial

Everett Hyland

Former Radioman Third Class, United States Navy

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Everett Hyland was born on March 17, 1923, in Stamford, Connecticut. He enlisted for naval service in November of 1940. After boot camp while awaiting trade school, he lived aboard the original USS *Constellation* in Newport, Rhode Island where he achieved "sea duty" on the historic ship. Later, he went through radioman's school in San Diego, California.

On December 7, 1941, Everett was serving aboard the USS *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) as a seaman. The "Pennsy", as the ship was nicknamed, was in Dry Dock # 1 on that morning.

During battle stations, his duty was being part of the antenna repair squad which put him top side during the attack. His point of assembly was near the clipping room. There was no need for radio communication as they knew they were under attack. So they fell into line carrying ammunition out to the 3-inch anti-aircraft gun.

He was severely wounded when a Japanese bomb exploded near his battle station. Everett was so badly wounded that he was almost given up for dead.

He did not recognize his surroundings until Christmas of 1941.

After 9 months of rehabilitation from his wounds, he returned to sea. He served aboard the USS *Memphis* (CL-13) and later at the Naval Air Station, Charleston, South Carolina.

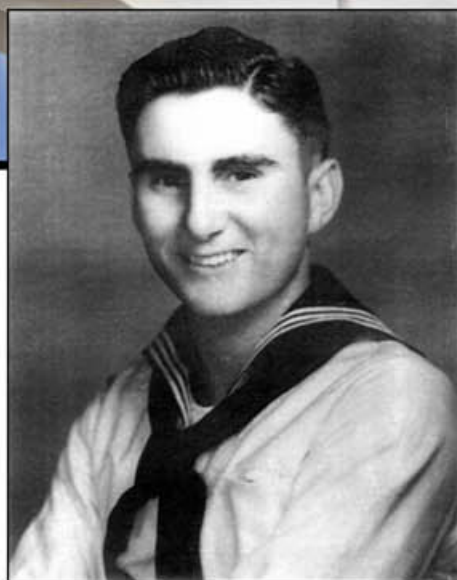
Everett was discharged from the Navy as a Radioman 3rd Class in November 1945. During his military service, he earned seven

campaign ribbons including the Purple Heart. Among the collection are all three area combat ribbons for involvement in the Asia-Pacific, the Atlantic and the European theaters.

Everett Hyland eventually retired as a science teacher. The staff of the USS *Arizona* Memorial is very pleased to have Everett as a National Park Service volunteer since 1995. He has been a crucial element in interpreting the story behind the Pearl Harbor attack to thousands of visitors. He is proud of his granddaughter, Anna Maria Saenz, who as her grandfather, became a member of the United States Navy following her graduation from the United States Navy Academy in 1996.



Photo Courtesy of Mr. John Baer, © Oahu Island News



A proud Navy tradition. Everett Hyland as a young sailor (left) and Everett today (above). In 1996, Everett positions his granddaughter's officer cover during her graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy (below).



RM3c Everett Hyland receives a Purple Heart Medal for the injuries he received on December 7, 1941.

USS Arizona Memorial

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



John J. Iantorno

Corporal, United States Army (1939 — 1946)



John Iantorno was born on December 25, 1921 in Cleveland, Ohio and attended high school at Poly High in Long Beach, California. On December 11, 1939, John joined the National Guard with his brother Anthony J. Iantorno along with his first cousin Sam Iantorno and second cousin Joe Pizzata nephew to Sam. They were later stationed with the 251st Coast Artillery (anti-aircraft) Battery "H" in Long Beach where they received armory training and drill classes on the 50 caliber machine and anti-aircraft weapons.

After 10-days of truck maneuvers to and from the San Francisco Airport where they were to protect the airport from simulated winter attacks by the United States Navy's 2-wing Hell Diver aircraft, the group was then returned to Long Beach. This was the only National Guard unit to participate in the exercise. Later on, along with 40,000 other troops, they were deployed for 21-days near Chehalis in Washington State. Up to this time, this was the largest maneuver of its kind in the history of the United States Army.

On the return train trip home, at the station in Santa Barbara... young newsboys were shouting "Extra, Extra... Read All About It!" On the newspaper's front page were blazed the words "**251st A.A.A. (auxiliary anti-aircraft) Regiment will be called up to active duty for one-year.**" On September 16, 1940, this order became "federalized" when historic Executive Order # 8530 was signed at the White House by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Commanders in Chief of all Armed Forces.

In October 1940, John was transported on the luxury liner S.S. *Washington* to Hawai'i. His most vivid memory of his arrival to the islands was when the ship came around Diamond Head. He remembers his first view of the shoreline of Waikiki Beach with only two hotels on the beach at the time... respectively, Moana Hotel and the Royal Hawaiian.

For approximately 9-months during his time on O'ahu, John was assigned to Barber's Point to assist in building Camp Malakole. Later the camp would be used as a practice range for thousands of troops for A.A.A practice firing. During the time that followed, it seems that any time the United States lost contact with the Japanese Fleet, John and his comrades were ordered back to their gun positions in and around the Pearl Harbor area.

His regiment was ready for action on the morning of December 6, 1941, but due to poor intelligence, the regiment was told that the Japanese Fleet were heading towards Formosa...current day Taiwan or towards the south China Sea... so the alert was unfortunately called off. Somehow, the entire Japanese 6th Fleet was overlooked and managed to get within a few hundred miles north of the coast of O'ahu. At approximately 7:55 the following Sunday morning on December 7, 1941, two separate waves of nearly 350 Japanese aircraft attacked and nearly destroyed the United States Pacific Fleet of ships and aircraft. The casualties and wounded were in the thousands. The attack soon became known as the single largest military disaster in the history of the United States Navy.

Immediately after the attack, the Marines departed on two destroyer escorts to bolster up the garrisons on Wake and Midway Islands. The 251st would find themselves on the following transports, which included the USS *Mormac Star* and the USS *Mormac Sea*. This regiment became the first to zigzag their way across the submarine infested waters of the Pacific to Nadi, Fiji. John admits that the United States Pacific Fleet was in bad shape at that time.

Shortly thereafter, John's regiment was sent to the New Hebrides in the South Pacific to convoy to Guadalcanal. The regiment was sent to help shore up the Marines forces before the first American offensive at Guadalcanal, which was known as "*Operation Cartwheel*". This historic event became a turning point in the War in the Pacific. Japan's military forces would never advance again. From this time until the end of the war, the United States and her allies would continue to fight and pry Japan's grip from the lands she had previously taken by force. John notes, "The Marines did an absolutely heroic job during the entire 6-months of battle."

Following this was the decisive Battle of Bougainville, the largest of the Solomon Islands. Their assignment was to protect, at all cost, a 3 mile by 5-mile perimeter for three fighter strips that were to be used by American escort fighters to escort the bombers from Guadalcanal in their efforts to neutralize Rabaul only 200 miles away. Rabaul was a large and heavily defended Japanese base located on the eastern end of New Britain Island and within easy range of the American bomber force. John vividly remembers, "...it was a terrible time in my life... it truly was a do or die situation... there was absolutely no retreat".

Initially, the odds were in favor of the Japanese Fleet with over 80,000 army troops on Bougainville. John's regiments consisted of two regular battalions, respectively the 746th and 951st. Along with these regiments were the 37th Ohio National Guard and the *Americal* Division, (an acronym of *America* and *New Caledonia*... which is also an island located in the South Pacific), and noted as the only American division that was not assigned a number. This battle lasted approximately one-year in length and casualties on both sides were staggering. From here the battle ran northwards towards the Philippines and other islands that lie in the path of the Japanese homeland.

After the action died down, John and his fellow National Guardsmen were relieved and sent home for approximately 60-days for R&R. Afterwards, John departed for Louisiana for infantry training where he spent approximately 90-days. John would remain in Louisiana guarding German prisoners until the end of the war. Other of his fellow guardsmen would serve time in the European Theater participating in the Battle of the Bulge, while others would be part of the meeting of allied Russian soldiers at the River Elbe in Germany.

In 1946, John's unit assisted in returning Japanese Prisoners of War back home to be reunited with their families. In June of that year, John's guard unit, with over 28,800 miles under their belt was cited as the most traveled American National Guard Unit during World War II. A record of 5-years, 8-months, 3-weeks and 2-days of active duty service.

As John says, "I guess in retrospect, we were all young kids back then... it seems that all anyone wanted to do was to get back home in one piece. I can never forget the battles or the thousands of young guys that never made it back home. So many young lives ended in a foxhole. I suppose the tragedy and heartbreak of the whole thing was the horrific sacrifice of innocent life.



**".....we were all just young kids....."
brother Tony Iantorno, cousin Joe Pizzata, and John Iantorno. Taken at Camp Malakole Firing Range, 1941.**

USS Arizona Memorial

Robert G. Kinzler

Captain, United States Army (Retired)

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Robert G. Kinzler was born in Newark, New Jersey on March 7, 1922. He enlisted in the United States Army on June 24, 1940, and arrived in Hawai'i in September of 1940.

On December 7, 1941, Private Kinzler was a Morse code radio operator assigned to Headquarters Company, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry (Tropical Lightning) Division, at Schofield Barracks, O'ahu. Schofield Barracks was not a target for the Japanese planes, but rather Wheeler Army Airfield, $\frac{3}{4}$ miles away. During the attack, his company was ordered to move to a pre-assigned battle station at the Roosevelt High School football stadium in Honolulu. On their way to Honolulu, they got their first look at

the destruction that took place at Pearl Harbor.

During World War II, Bob served in the South Pacific, the continental United States and Canada. With more than 22 years of military service, Captain Robert G. Kinzler retired from the United States Army in October of 1962.

Joining the National Park Service's Volunteers-In-Parks program in 1985, Robert Kinzler is one of the USS *Arizona* Memorial's longest serving volunteers. He has benefited the National Park Service, this park and thousands of park visitors with his articulate and personal

interpretation of the events

surrounding the Pearl Harbor attack. He is also currently serving as the president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Aloha

Bob on a "pass" in downtown Honolulu in early 1942. (Notice the required gas mask in the bag and metal helmet.)

Chapter 1, and is the treasurer of the *Arizona* Memorial Museum Association Board of Directors. He is especially proud of his daughter, Karen, a 1980 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point.



Two generations of soldiers. Bob at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i, May 1941 (above) and his daughter, Major Karen Kinzler, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, 1984 (right).



USS Arizona Memorial

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Alfred Benjamin Kame'eiamoku Rodrigues SKC, United States Navy (Retired)

Al was born on February 7, 1920 in Kapa'a, Kaua'i Territory of Hawai'i. He moved to Honolulu after graduating from Kaua'i High School. He worked at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and did a lot of surfing in Waikiki during this time off. He joined the Navy Reserves and was called to active duty for one year in November of 1940. In November of 1941, his reserve unit was extended for an indefinite period of time.

Al was stationed at the Section Base, Bishop's Point, Pearl Harbor. This base was located at the entrance to Pearl Harbor and just across the street from the Hickam Army Air Field. The purpose of the base was to provide logistics for the small craft that docked alongside and also to furnish men to maintain the submarine nets that spanned the entrance to the harbor.

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, Al had watch and was on duty when he heard about the USS *Ward* dropping depth charges on an unidentified submarine operating in the defensive zone located about a mile outside of the harbor entrance. He was just about to eat breakfast when the general quarters alarm sounded. While everyone raced from the galley to the armory, they could see the red "Rising Suns" on the wings of the incoming planes, and they instantly knew that the planes were Japanese. Al was issued a .30 caliber rifle and started shooting at the planes as they passed overhead. They were low enough that you could actually see the faces of the Japanese pilots. The attack lasted a few hours and then quickly calmed down. Being near Hickam Field, Al witnessed Japanese fighter aircraft shooting at American B-17 bombers that were arriving from California. Al laughingly recalls, "I never had the opportunity to finish my ham and eggs that morning!"

In 1943, Al was transferred to the battleship USS *Washington* (BB-56) operating in the Pacific area. The USS *Washington* was the only naval ship that sun a Japanese battleship *IMS Kirishima*. In early 1945, Al was transferred to new construction and was eventually assigned to the District Material Redistribution Office located in the Third Naval District in New York City. When the war ended, he returned to Hawai'i and joined the Regular Navy and retired after twenty-four years of service.

Al would later work for the General Services Administration for thirty years and again retire as the Manager of the GSA Customer Supply Center located on Hickam Air Force Base (Hickam Field), Hawai'i.

Al now spends his time playing golf and sharing the yard work with his wife. Put simply, he says, "I just enjoy life and isn't that the way it is supposed to be?"



Then and now.
Al in 1941 and
Al today.



Al and his wife, Louise Elnora
attending a Navy function.

USS Arizona Memorial

Thomas E. Unger

Volunteer Hawai'i Territorial Guard/United States Army

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Tom Unger was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai'i. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1941.

On December 7, 1941, Tom was an 18-year old civilian. During the attack, he rode a truck into Hickam Field (today, Hickam Air Force Base), and with a crew of Red Cross volunteers, assisted doctors and medics in caring for the dead or wounded. He was able to help save one airman out of a bombed-out guardhouse. Later, Tom carried water so that the doctors could operate. He also helped evacuate corpses to Tripler Army Hospital.

The following day, Tom joined the Hawai'i Territorial Guard; a citizen volunteer group armed to backup the military in the event of an enemy invasion. As a



guardsman, he was ferried by boat to Sand Island, located in the middle of Honolulu

Harbor, where he was tasked to care for and guard civilian detainees, enemy aliens and prisoners of war.

While stationed at Sand Island and within a few weeks after the attack, Tom enlisted in the United States Army. He was first assigned to the 811th Military Police Company at Sand Island and assisted in establishing the first prisoner of war camp on American soil since the American Civil War. Tom had an opportunity to guard Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki, the captured midget submarine commander and the first Japanese prisoner of war for the United States in the Second World War.

Later in the war, Tom saw combat in three campaigns in Italy, serving as a Sergeant in the 349th Infantry of the 88th "Blue Devil" Division. Before the last and final battle for Italy, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

After the war, Tom went to the University of Portland, Oregon. He also served with the Oregon

Technical Sergeant Tom Unger in Montecatini, Italy, 1944.

National Guard until his graduation in 1950. Today, Tom is a volunteer at the USS *Arizona* Memorial. He also participates with the Pearl Harbor Survivors in the "Witness to History" program. This program is directed to schools throughout the United States and to military dependent schools around the world. The program is sponsored by the United States Navy and the National Park Service.

An interesting side note: Tom's father, Frank J. Unger, was a career Navy man, mostly on submarines. He too survived the Pearl Harbor attack. His Chief Torpedoman's jacket and other artifacts are part of the USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum collection. Visit the USS *Bowfin* Museum next door and see if his father's collection is on display.



Tom on a disabled German tank in Italy.

USS Arizona Memorial

Herb Weatherwax

Staff Sergeant , United States Army

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Herb Weatherwax was born in Honolulu, Hawai'i on June 3, 1917. He was drafted into the United States Army on June 6, 1941. After basic training, he was assigned to the 298th Infantry Regiment located at Schofield Barracks, O'ahu, Hawai'i.



On December 7, 1941, Private Weatherwax was on a weekend pass when he heard an announcement over a local radio station that Pearl Harbor was under attack by Japanese forces. The announcement instructed that all military personnel should immediately report to their duty stations. On his way to Schofield Barracks, he witnessed the destruction at Pearl Harbor and Wheeler Army Airfield near Schofield.



In 1944, Herb left Hawai'i for training in the Signal Corps. He was reassigned to the 272nd Infantry Regiment, 69th Division, stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The 69th Division was sent to Europe, and in early 1945, entered



An exhausted young soldier next to a foxhole in the Eifel Forest, Belgium, February 1945 (above). With President George W. Bush, October 22, 2003 (left).



combat at the Eifel Forest in Belgium. From there, his regiment moved inland to join up with Russian troops at a town called Torgau, which was located on the west bank of the Elbe River in western Germany. When the two Allied armies linked up, there was a sense of joy among them, knowing that the end of the war in Europe was near.

Herb and Russian soldier Leonid Kruglov, following the linkup at the Elbe River in 1945. The two maintained a close friendship and 53 years later, met in Hawai'i for a reunion in 1998.

Herb joined the National Park Service volunteer program in 1996. He enjoys sharing his war stories with many of the USS Arizona Memorial visitors. Herb has been active in the Pearl Harbor Interview Series, part of the *Witness to*

History Teleconference Educational Program. The series allows American school children from all across the country to learn about the Pearl Harbor attack by communicating directly with the survivors of the attack.

USS Arizona Memorial

Rodney T. West, M.D.

United States Navy Reserve (1940 — 1949)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Rodney T. West, M.D. was born on the island of Maui in the then, Territory of Hawai'i. He graduated from the Punahou School in Honolulu and attended Northwestern University in Chicago, where he earned his Medical Degree. He returned to the Islands, spent 18 months as an intern and resident at the Queen's Hospital and then went into a private practice in Honolulu. He joined the United States Naval Reserve in January of 1940. Twenty months later, September 5, 1941, he was called to active duty and was stationed at the Medical Dispensary on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor and was there on the morning of December 7, 1941. He spent the rest of World War II on Johnston Island in the Pacific and at various Naval Air Stations on the American mainland. At the end of the war, he returned to Honolulu and on March 26, 1946 was discharged from active duty. In September of 1949, he resigned from the Naval Reserve as a full Commander. Then, after practicing on the Big Island of Hawai'i for a year, he returned to Honolulu and joined the Obstetrics and Gynecological department of the Straub Clinic. In December of 1956, after delivering at least 5,000 babies — and other things, he retired from the practice of medicine. In 1963, he served as the President of the Hawai'i Medical Association and in 1975, he helped found and was the first president of the American College of Physician Executives.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Dr.

A sobering reminder of the Ford Island Dispensary bomb greets dispensary visitors as they enter the building today.

West rushed into the Ford Island dispensary to help with the wounded. In the middle of the quadrangle of the dispensary, there was a huge crater in the ground, which was caused by a bomb meant for the USS *California*, moored nearby. Had the bomb been a few feet more off target, it would have gone through the dispensary and killed or injured even more. Dr. West remained on Ford Island from December 7th to the 11th, working at the dispensary. Most of the wounded were sailors from the sinking and listing battleships, who had to swim through the burning oil in the waters of Pearl Harbor. Most of the injuries were flash burns, since most of the sailors had been wearing shorts and t-shirts, and the burned areas were those that were exposed. After Dr. West gave them preliminary care, the wounded were sent to the U.S. Naval Hospital at Hospital Point for further attention.



The 50th anniversary of the events of World War II was a very inspirational time for Dr. West. These activities reminded him of the many Honolulu civilians who had volunteered their talents to insure that Hawai'i was prepared for a major disaster. These preparations began because of the war that was already happening in Europe in the 1930's. In 1939, Dr. West acted with a group of concerned Honolulu residents from the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Honolulu County Medical Society, the City and County Emergency Unit, and the Queen's Hospital that help set up a program that prepared O'ahu for a serious disaster. Volunteers were trained to run a blood bank night and day; to manage multiple first-aid stations; to be able to drive ambulances to pick up wounded and dying in a combat situation; to be able to transport families with children to safer areas; to know how to feed hundreds of workers; to be willing to deliver supplies to civilian and military hospitals; and to possess the knowledge to assist the Red Cross — just to name a few. The preparations that were meticulously attended to in the eighteen months prior to the attack, went into full gear on December 7, 1941, and these early preparations saved many lives. History consistently reminds us that the Japanese attack on the island of O'ahu was a total surprise, but the quick civilian response on that Sunday morning proved that the island was indeed prepared in one area. The reminders of the many Honolulu civilians who had volunteered for a over a year prior to the attack and were willing to place themselves into a dangerous situation inspired him to write a book about these efforts. Dr. West's book, Honolulu Prepares for Japan's Attack was first published in 1992 and is now in its seventh printing. This book is for sale at the *Arizona* Memorial Museum Association Bookstore. And, although not a USS *Arizona* Memorial Pearl Harbor Survivor volunteer, Dr. West does perform book signings and greets visitors every Wednesday at the USS *Arizona* Memorial visitor center.



Dr. West welcomes President George W. Bush to the USS Arizona Memorial, October 23, 2003.